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Blog
Careers
Press
Best of Reddit
Reddit Rules
Privacy Policy
User Agreement
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Accessibility

r/news • 7d ago
JN3LL3V

Under Trump, hundreds of America's wild horses are being sold for as little as $25 and being sent to slaughter, report says

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Wealist • 7d ago

The government spends thousands rounding up a mustang, then sells it for $25. That's not exactly a great return on investment.

jayforwork21 • 7d ago

What do you mean? They use our money to round them up and then they keep the money they make. Sounds like a money laundering operation to steal even more of our money.

MrSlime13 • 7d ago • Edited 6d ago

It's incredible to me that people don't *see* Trump as extracting as much money as possible from the US infrastructure as he can. It's plain as day. These no-bid contracts that cost 10x what they should... Where's the money coming from? **Us.** Our taxes. Our tax-funded program cuts... Where's all the money *going*? Who knows? His personal "pool guy", who can't manage to recoat the reflecting pool...? He's given his own *personal* lawyer the best lawyer job on the planet, qualifications aside. He's tried to sue *his own* IRS department for $10**BILLION** dollars... It's just a money printing machine to him.

CzarDale04 • 6d ago

I heard he is trying to take over Arlington and turn it into a golf course country club.

Wild_Haggis_Hunter • 6d ago

His tomb is going to be the best urinal ever for centuries.

rob_1127 • 6d ago

They will need to install drainage tile around his grave. There will be so much piss left there...

From every country around the world.

And it will be the only way Canadians return to the USA, just to relieve ourselves.

2 more replies

1 more reply

NocNocNoc19 • 6d ago

Its intentional. The right has spent every minute since the repeal of the fairness doctorin establishing a misinformation machine to convince their voters that corruption and fraud is the height of intelligence and proper conduct.

Glittering_Skill_919 • 6d ago

Don't give those assholes in congress a pass. They are complicit. Checks and balances COULD happen. Is built into the system. They are just complicit and negligent...

11 more replies

Jcklvy • 7d ago

That last sentence can be applied to about 95% of stuff trump has done this term

ComplexDraft • 7d ago

I'm sick of this. He is with a doubt in my mind an enemy agent. He is destroying every decent thing about this country and I can't stand it.

LTdesign • 6d ago

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Links_between_Trump_associates_and_Russian_officials

EmergencyCucumber905 • 7d ago
Top 1% Commenter

without a doubt

gao7on • 7d ago

Not to mention upending thousands of environmental and wildlife protection policies and agencies that run them since his first term. Enemy of mother nature.

ComplexDraft • 7d ago

I missed that. Thanks for the correction.

EthanielRain • 6d ago • Edited 6d ago

It isn't "in your mind", it's public information. I read about the KGB/FSB throwing a huge party when they convinced Trump to get into politics...decades ago. Trump was literally President & couldn't get security clearance legitimately - Republicans elected a foreign agent President

But surely it is just a coincidence that the GOP/DNC servers were hacked & Russia released all the DNC info but not the GOP. Then next election (2016) the GOP loves our new ally Russia & support Trump wholeheartedly (even the ones who had just previously called him things like "America's Hitler" or "would destroy our entire country")

Sardonnicus • 6d ago

It's hard for me to be mad at him he literally attempted a coup and people elected him anyways. This is why you can't elect someone who attempted a coup. If you do this you complete their coup for them. Which we did and here we are. So we are left to wallow in our misery as a giant fat toddler crashes his way through this country burning everything down.

2 more replies

1 more reply

iRegretsEverything • 7d ago

The American taxpayer is their personal piggy bank, working as intended

fergie_lr • 7d ago

The most vile people are the ones profiting.

kinglouie493 • 7d ago

Sort of like that Venezuelan oil but at home

10 more replies

TooManyDraculas • 7d ago

They're not like farming horses for profit or something.

These horses are non-native, they're well naturalized feral horses and invasive in some areas. They can be damaging, and currently lack natural predators in much of their range. So we need to artificially cull the population.

They're *good fucking horses* and we have an aversion to the slaughter and culling of these horses, and horses in general. Mostly cause horses, and some nostalgia about the "Wild West". They were also a critical source of cavalry and other government horses in the past, which is still somewhat of a factor.

So we round them up, train them, and sell or adopt them pretty cheap as our primary way of keeping the wild populations stable. The program is not meant to make money, and ultimately costs very little of the BLM's budget to execute. It's meant to manage these populations, to preserve the animals and mitigate impact on the surrounding environment. They're *good* for the ecosystem provided they're not over populated or spreading into the wrong areas.

The problem here is the slaughter of horses is illegal in the US, and the BLM isn't allowed to sell these horses for slaughter. The Trump admin seems to be deliberately selling these to 3rd parties that will shift them to slaughter operations, and selling them for less than they're worth. Those 3rd parties are profiteering off this, buying the horses dirt cheap and selling them for many times more than the buying price, specifically for slaughter in Canada.

So the Government is currently doing less to cover the costs of the program, for the sake of some connected knob making a quick buck off the horse meat market outside the US. It's just more fucking graft.

GamingWithBilly • 6d ago

*Actually horse slaughtering isn't banned in the US, it's just that congress blocks the USDA funding for any inspections of horse meat, so slaughter houses can't get licensed inspectors to look at the meat, and therefore can't sell it as food without that inspection. So slaughtering horses for food is in the US is blocked by USDA funding restrictions. But, it doesn't prevent anyone from Custom slaughtering, in which the horse is slaughtered for a private party. You don't need USDA inspection for that, so you could buy the horse for $25, have it slaughtered, and then pack your fridge with the meat.

What's REALLY a problem here is, these wild horses are not meaty. These horses are lean and thin, they live on lands that are desert and not nutritious. So these horses are skin and bones. So they are buying the horses for $25, and then spending time to fatten them. What's challenge is wild horses can't be given a lot of food to get to slaughter weight. Changing their diets can cause them to become sick and founder, rotting their hooves and impossible to stand. So, getting these horses for $25 and thinking you'll get $750 after slaughter is really presumptious. More likely $100-$250 a head

Miserable_Aioli2606 • 7d ago

This needs to be a higher comment. It's a nuanced issue because the horses are non native, out-competing native wildlife for resources, and sometimes also starving to death when those resources get scarce. The population needs to managed, and there are humane ways for doing it that should receive more support. https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/adoptions-and-sales

TooManyDraculas • 7d ago • Edited 7d ago

This is the humane way of doing this. Those horses are not allowed to be sold for meat, and it's illegal to slaughter horses in the US.

The Trump admin appears to be turning it into a graft engine instead.

I'd also be cautious about claims that these populations are inherently damaging. As those are mostly pushed by agribusiness who want to displace them to access the land for grazing cattle.

From what I've seen most actual ecologists and biologists, consider a well managed appropriate population, in the right spots. Beneficial. And at minimum their presence is less damaging than industrial scale cattle ranching.

We haven't always earmarked the appropriate level of resources to *maintain that* situation. But that's not the same as these horse populations being a net negative.

2 more replies

4 more replies

Uvtha- • 6d ago

I didn't realize there was even a market that big for horse meat.

TooManyDraculas • 6d ago

There really isn't. It's a thing in certain areas but it's sort of a niche, enough of one that it still operates more or less as discount meat.

There's occasional scandals where it's subbed for beef in processed foods illegally. The most famous one was in 2013 when a number of large producers were caught out on adding horse meat to packaged foods. Most famously Ikea's Meatballs, but the biggest culprits were apparently makers of frozen burger patties. Including those served at multiple fast food chains.

5 more replies

4 more replies

TwoLegitShiznit • 7d ago

> As soon as the deliveries are made in the front door, you move the stuff out the back and sell it at a discount. You take a two hundred dollar case of booze and sell it for a hundred. It doesn't matter. It's all profit.

I'm guessing it's something like that. ie the source of the money for the operation and the destination of the revenues are probably 2 very different entities

TooManyDraculas • 7d ago

More or less. The BLM runs this program, and it's not a for profit situation. The captured horses have to be offered for adoption, and adopted horses must stay in the US for at least a year afterwards.

Only horses that haven't been adopted after 2 tries can be sold. And they're not allowed to be sold for slaughter.

What's happening in they're selling horses to 3rd parties, who are flipping them to slaughter houses in Canada. And they're doing it before trying to adopt out the horses, and selling them for way less than they're worth.

So those 3rd party sellers go and sell those horses for 10-20x what they spent.

That "as low as $25" goes back into the program. But that 3rd party is selling that $25 horse for $1000.

TAV63 • 7d ago

They are running it like the mob. Apparently this is better than a Dem in office to stop it. Crazy

DoneBeingSilent • 7d ago

> They are running it like the mob. Apparently this is better than a Dem in office to stop it. Crazy

Something I feel like doesn't get talked about enough:

There's pretty good evidence that Trump was in with the Mafia in New York. There's also evidence that his involvement also included that of a confidential informant for the FBI, which could also explain why Speaker of the House Mike Johnson 'misspoke' about Trump being a confidential FBI informant regarding Epstein.

TAV63 • 7d ago

Not just mafia, which of you build in NY you know, but the Russian mob. His biggest money was laundering for the Russian mob.

4 more replies

FrogFlavor • 7d ago

It's not supposed to be a profitable side hustle for BLM. Their job from what I understand is to prevent disease and starvation outbreaks that result from overpopulation, by doing round ups the same way less sentimental countries do culls.

mypatronusislasagna • 7d ago

You're right. It's also done because wild horses compete with native species like deer, bighorn sheep, antelope, etc.

6 more replies

MastiffOnyx • 7d ago

It's my understanding, from an owner of a horse rescue who has purchased in the past, they are offered up to the public 1st and those that don't sell go to slaughter.

Also, these are not horses you buy so your granddaughter can have a horsie.

These are wild animals that can and will kill you if given the chance. They are not for amateurs. Professionals often won't touch them because of the danger.

I've seen her rescued 'stings in person, and no way would i go near them.

38 more replies

Top-Spinach7683 • 7d ago

wtf is up with this administration and these odd fucking deals. What are they doing being involved in horse sales?

Not_a_Rodeo_Clown • 7d ago

They just want to wet their beak. In literally everything. It's stupid mafia but alas our fellow Americans were so much fucking dumber that they elected them. And far too stupid to realize how they're being fleeced and everything made worse even as it happens.

QueryCrook • 7d ago

It's the most blatant and widespread extractionary capitalism I've seen in living memory. I would wish that Trump reaps the whirlwind, but I think I'd prefer if he didn't last that long.

Gimme_The_Loot • 7d ago

Tragedy of the commons at a national scale

hgs25 • 7d ago

Welcome to Gilded Age 2.0

sirspidermonkey • 7d ago

> ut I think I'd prefer if he didn't last that long.

I'm not looking forward to it. There are no circumstances that the right will not spin it conspiracy and targeting liberals for. These are the same people who bleived his doctor that i's 6'3" 238lbs and "could live to 200"

caligaris_cabinet • 7d ago

This goes beyond typical capitalism and is straight up corruption

4 more replies

3 more replies

MagnetoWasRight24 • 7d ago

The fucked up thing is that this isn't even them wetting their beak. They're not turning a profit on this, they're literally just killing these horses to avoid paying for their care. It's just a budget cut.

Falloutgrrl • 7d ago
Top 1% Commenter

There are a lot of wild horses in the American Southwest

BLM rounds them up, and then they get sold (previously, not to slaughterhouses - but rather to adoptions) now through middleman to at least one slaughterhouse in Canada

7 more replies

Not_a_Rodeo_Clown • 7d ago

I imagine if you looked into the companies doing the killing and taking over whatever land they had or replacing the folks who did the care... they are pretty much wetting their beak at each link on the chain.

2 more replies

TooManyDraculas • 7d ago

The BLM/Federal government has been involved in rounding up wild horses and donkeys since the 19th century. Both for government use and for sale. These days they're primarily sent for adoption, and can only be sold if no one adopts them.

What seems to be going on here is Trump has the agency breaking it's own rules, to sell them to 3rd parties profiteering by selling them for meat. So another government program got tilted into a graft machine.

2 more replies

SakanaToDoubutsu • 7d ago

This has been a fight that's been going on for decades, on the one side that you have a group that says feral horses are not native to North America & hinder recovery efforts for vulnerable native wildlife so they should be destroyed, and on the other side you have people who like the idea of the wild mustang and thinks they should be protected. These feral horses live mainly on federal land so it's ultimately up to the federal government to decide what to do with them, but no president or their secretary of the interior has wanted to step on this political landmine so they've mostly just left them alone until now.

IamJewbaca • 7d ago

Feral horses shouldn't exist the United States. Just because we keep making other horrid decisions regarding our environment doesn't mean we keep making this one.

2 more replies

2 more replies

ProfessionalOil2014 • 7d ago

Cattle farmers and oil companies can use the land once the horses are no longer on it. It's just bribery and corruption as usual

2 more replies

Toidal • 7d ago

They'll give up 100 million of US tax payer money, to personally receive 10 million under the table.

2 more replies

KE2DBB • 7d ago

The Bureau of Land Management has been capturing and sterilizing wild horses for years.

They also go to auction for the public to purchase instead of generally being euthanized.

This is not new.

43 more replies

MadAstrid • 7d ago

Coincidentally, Trump is flooding the market with beef to placate the masses, but when asked where it is coming from, responded "I don't want to say."

OrthogonalThoughts • 7d ago

It's coming from Argentina, who had their beef exports denied due to screwworm contamination. The same screwworms that are killing American beef production. But let's just all ignore that like we keep ignoring the Trumpstein Files.

izzymaestro • 7d ago

Screwworm *and* chemical contamination.

China blocks Argentine beef shipment over banned antibiotic detection amid tightened import scrutiny - Stonehaven Cozmix Group

https://sc.group/animal-health-news/china-blocks-argentine-beef-shipment-over-banned-antibiotic-detection-amid-tightened-import-scrutiny/

Mattilaus • 7d ago

What a world we now live in. Where China denies a beef shipment because it doesn't hit their standards but America gobbles it up.

Reasonable-Turn-5940 • 7d ago

My TikTok feed is full of ranchers and farmers begging for support and assistance. They're all complaining about "the gubment" or "Uncle Sam" suddenly and seem to have forgotten who they voted in.

Lucius-Halthier • 6d ago

I've seen other farmers try to downplay it too, literally saying "yea but OBAMA imported beef from Brazil!" Without actually realizing that we imported the low cuts of cows for ground beef while we exported our higher quality cuts. Right now we are importing whatever we can get our hands on from his libertarian buddies in Argentina that he propped up with our tax dollars.

threehundredthousand • 7d ago

Well, it's for the American serfs. The American aristocracy lives the high life.

MadAstrid • 7d ago

I mean, sure, possibly. Or it is horse meat. Or Soylent green. Because the republicans are implementing the "remove all food safety regulations" part of the Project 2025 playbook, we will likely never know.

Fredissimo666 • 7d ago

People would notice if horse meat was sold as beef. They taste different enough. Unless maybe they mixed them toghether, but that would just involve more people on the conspiracy and would be untenable long term.

strawflour • 7d ago • Edited 7d ago

It has happened before...

To your point, it seems to have been detected fairly quickly. But that was due to regulatory oversight and not because consumers noticed

unhiddenninja • 7d ago

Both can be true. I hope both aren't true, but they can.

1 more reply

Money_Statement_9861 • 7d ago

Trump will do anything to properly up right wing regimes when they inevitably begin failing. He's thrown a ton of money at a few countries already not just Argentina.

1 more reply

donkeyrocket • 7d ago

Correction: he's claiming to flood the market with beef but that hasn't materialized and only served to ostracize American ranchers.

He's encouraged the import of a very meager amount and a portion of that was halted due to screwworm and chemical contaminants.

Don't regurgitate what Trump want you to. He's actively making the beef industry worse in America.

probabletrump • 7d ago

He's importing "beef" completely unrelated to the wild horses that are being exported to be slaughtered.

4 more replies

2 more replies

AudibleNod • 7d ago
Top 1% Poster

"Raw horse meat cures measles."

-RFK Jr, probably.

Gang_Bang_Bang • 7d ago

"CHeRyL, bRInG mE tHe hOrSE MEaT PaMpHLeTs, tHeSe fOLks are mIsInFoRmED aBoUt the mEaSLeS!..."

1 more reply

huehuehuehuehuuuu • 7d ago

Yeah who's eating these sus horses?

EgoTripWire • 7d ago

You are as the new cheap "beef" import.

1 more reply

4 more replies

3 more replies

demmka • 7d ago • Edited 7d ago

1. There are no "wild" horses in America. Mustangs are feral domesticated horses brought over by the Spanish Conquistadors.
2. The BLM has been rounding up mustangs for decades. They are sadly overpopulated and slow painful deaths due to lack of resources and competition for grazing and water are basically torture.
3. If roundups are necessary it would be kinder to just shoot them in the pens, rather than ship them off to unknown and potentially unregulated slaughter houses. And I say this as a life long horse-person.

IronSlanginRed • 7d ago

Honestly #3 is likely what will happen if there is enough pushback on the auctions. Then there will be pushback on that. But the general public has not had to care for a horse and isn't going to adopt the 80,000+ wild and unbroken horses that are out there. Nor can blm afford to individually care for them.

demmka • 7d ago

Exactly. The number of people equipped to work with feral mustangs is small compared to the number that are in need of rehoming. Most of them end up just standing in huge pens for the rest of their lives.

34 more replies

melkipersr • 7d ago

I don't think this is new? I remember BLM doing a mustang and burro sale in my area (decidedly not the west), with most being sold for surprisingly low amounts, and that was a decade or so ago.

zielawolfsong • 7d ago

Yep, not sure exactly how long it's been going on but definitely pre-dates Trump. I know a couple who trains mustangs, they'll go to the corrals to pick up likely prospects (often for endurance). Horses that get "three strikes," ie go through three sales events without being sold, or otherwise have an issue that makes them unlikely to be adopted such as age or injury, go to long-term holding which are basically large pastures or paddocks where they live out their lives. The whole system is complicated and kind of a mess because people don't want to see horses euthanized, but there's not nearly enough adopters out there. There've been efforts at birth control, but we're talking about 1000 lb wild animals so there's obviously a lot of difficulty there too. You have ranchers, animal rights activists, and ecologists all arguing different facets of the issue, and I have no idea what the answer is.

4 more replies

IronSlanginRed • 7d ago

Yeah. Wild horses and burros are not worth much. They're also invasive non-native species and need intervention for population control as they have no native predators really and can damage the environment. Whether they've been here long enough in large enough numbers to contemplate full removal is another story, but the federal government has, and will continue, to round up feral ones when the need arises and dispose of them. Better they get used than dumped in a pit and buried imo. Which.. is the backup option if they can't sell them..

suitcaseismyhome • 7d ago

The vast majority of people commenting have no idea of what has gone on in history. As usual they are commenting without actual knowledge

1 more reply

Call_Me_Koala • 7d ago

It's not new. This story is being sensationalized to hell and back. From everything I've seen there's very little proof that these horses have been sold to slaughter houses.

Here's a few facts for anyone curious:

Wild horses are an invasive species in North America and actively harm local animal populations like pronghorn

The BLM has always rounded up mustangs and adopted them or sold them as a means of population control. They can only be sold if they are passed over 3 times for adoption

When sold, they can be sold for quite cheap. It's never been a way for the government to milk money out of the environment.

Thebazilly • 7d ago

Honestly the horses *should* be sold to slaughterhouses, they're overpopulated to the point of starvation and not that many people want to buy a wild horse any more.

Ding-Dong-Dutch • 6d ago

Nobody can afford horses anymore. They are up there with boats in how much they cost you in maintenance

2 more replies

Pulze_ • 6d ago

So I did a bit of research because this information came to me last week. There IS supposedly a large population of wild horses in the US. It's a complicated subject, because wild horses in the US don't have a network of predators that control their population, their population can grow by 20% over a year. The government and local regulators identified this as a growing systemic issue as their growing population will put pressure on the grazing lands they're limited to. The BLM keeps certain sections of public lands for animal management and the ranges that wild horses are allowed on are becoming too populated per their own studies.

Where it gets complicated is that there's plenty of land to support the current populations, but much of it is allocated to private ranchers for cattle pasture. I'm not sure how well the two populations of these animals could co-exist, but basically, we need beef so the government likes to give access to help strengthen beef productivity but they're running out of space to hold the wild horses and nothing eats the horses to keep the population down.

I would prefer we do everything we can to manage the horse population as best we can, but I can't imagine it's being looked at thoroughly enough right now and the public, rightfully so, get very angry whenever wild horses are shot or killed even if they probably need to be managed for population concerns or need to be allocated more space.

10 more replies

CinderMoonSky • 7d ago

Colorado was already trying to get rid of their wild horses before Trump

1 more reply

dirty15 • 7d ago

You would have to give me a wild horse. $25 still seems a little steep.

I own 5 horses and board another 10 at my barn. They are not cheap, at all, to keep. This is coming from a person that just paid $12,500 for one lol.

6 more replies

ul2006kevinb • 7d ago

This is an example of a broken clock being right twice a day. Wild horses are an invasive species and we have always periodically cracked down on their numbers to keep them from overwhelming native species

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free-roaming_horse_management_in_North_America

JN3LL3V OP • 7d ago

While the Bureau of Land Management is allowed to use euthanasia as a method of controlling wild horses, they're prohibited from selling horses for slaughter. That's where the issue lies.

kurttheflirt • 7d ago

Why though? Seems very wasteful otherwise.

strawflour • 7d ago

Bias and the romanticization of horses plays a huge part.

There's also the concern that, as soon as you introduce a profit motive, people become invested in maintaining feral horse populations because they can make money off them as is happening with feral hogs.

PodricksPhallus • 7d ago

"If no adoption demand exists, animals are to be humanely destroyed or sold "without limitation" which allows the horses to be sent to slaughter."

1 more reply

jaylw314 • 7d ago

You've already cited that this is BLM policy. That means it's not "prohibited" or "illegal," which implies there is a statue law or case law preventing them from changing their mind in the future. It does not even sound like they're acceding to another agency's policy

5 more replies

8 more replies

Dawg-eat-dawg • 7d ago

Hey now, don't go muddying the waters with history and context.

20 more replies

Laniidae_ • 7d ago

PSA: Wild horses are not wild. They are feral. Horses went extinct in North America and were reintroduced by the Spanish.

This does not remove the fact that this is not the way to go about removing an invasive species from the landscape.

Drak_is_Right • 7d ago • Edited 7d ago

Yup.

Personally I am for the extermination of wild horses except a few small reserves. They are an invasive species.

That land should be for elk and bison and bighorn sheep.

Laniidae_ • 7d ago

I used to work with desert tortoises in the American Southwest. The horses trample them if they happen to be moving around next to a group and they get scared.

Horses spread cheatgrass

Horses crowd out guzzlers and will kill Bighorn Sheep for access to water.

They kill native predators.

They're attacked by predators, but live and die from a terrible infection.

They compete with native herbivores for food.

They starve to death in the middle of winter.

They get hit by cars and don't always die.

They don't deserve the rough lives they have inherited and the animals who are paying the price don't deserve it either.

Call_Me_Koala • 7d ago

Don't forget pronghorn, I love my little redneck gazelles.

10 more replies

14 more replies

Yuukiko_ • 7d ago
Top 1% Commenter

Where do you think Trump is getting all that cheap "beef"?

MannequinWithoutSock • 7d ago
Top 1% Commenter

Argentina.
Beef China refused to buy due to health concerns.

5 more replies

dafunkmunk • 7d ago
Top 1% Commenter

What cheap beef? The prices are still ridiculously high

2 more replies

Tin-Tin-K • 7d ago

The wording called it "product", meat "product", and beef "product".

1 more reply

MachoLibre_ • 6d ago

Found the mystery beef

Reddragon0585 • 7d ago

Once again we have a thread where nobody actually looks into what the topic of the article is because it involves Trump. This has been ongoing for decades now. I remember watching a CNN 10 video on it in middle school while Obama was president. These stupid comments are no better than Facebook comments.

1 more reply

Farkerisme • 7d ago

Tina Belcher is pissed!

2 more replies

VoicesByZane • 7d ago

Sorry, this is good actually. Feral horses are invasive and really mess up local biomes leading to habitat destruction. They live brutal lives of injury and starvation. We should not have wild horses.

vector_search_blue • 7d ago
Top 1% Commenter

feral horses

wild horses are extinct

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